

REMARKS

I. Formalities

This is an amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 that cancels all of the rejected claims and, it is believed, otherwise places the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-31, and 34-44 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 32 and 33 have been canceled, and claim 31 has been amended herein. Claim 5 was canceled in an earlier communication.

II. Discussion

In an Office Action mailed June 16, 2004, the examiner allowed claims 1-4, 6-30, and 34-44, objected to claim 31, and rejected claims 32 and 33. On October 15, 2004, Applicants mailed a Response to the Office Action, in which claim 31 was amended and claims 32 and 33 were canceled. In addition, the Response presented amendments to several other claims, and argued that the amendments to those additional claims: (1) did not introduce any new matter; and (2) were so minor that they did not expand the scope of what was claimed beyond that which was previously allowed, and therefore could be entered without necessitating a new search or requiring any further examination.

An Advisory Action mailed November 10, 2004 indicated that the examiner did not agree with the arguments regarding the additional claim amendments, and thus that the proposed amendments would not be entered. The Advisory Action was not timely responded to, and a Notice of Abandonment was mailed on January 25, 2005. As set forth in the accompanying Petition to Revive, the failure to respond was unintentional.

During a teleconference with Applicants' undersigned attorney, the examiner indicated that a paper placing the claims back into the form in which they were allowed would be a proper response to the Notice of Abandonment. The foregoing listing contains the claims in that form.

This paper is a request that the examiner, upon a granting of the petition to revive filed herewith, reinstate the allowance of the earlier-allowed claims. Claim 31 was objected to because

the phrase "the slot" did not have antecedent basis. The amendments to claim 31 provide proper antecedent basis for the subject phrase, and claim 31 is thus now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this paper is also a request that the examiner consider the amendments to claim 31 as set forth herein, which amendments were originally presented with the October 15, 2004 Response, and allow claim 31 as amended. As noted above, claims 32 and 33 have been canceled herein.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Upon the granting of the accompanying petition to revive an unintentionally abandoned patent application, and in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims should be allowed, and respectfully request that a notice of allowance be issued.

All fees believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper are submitted herewith. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 02-4467.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants invite Examiner Glessner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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37 C.F.R. §1.34(a)
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